FAL. I would, you had but the wit: 'twere better than your dukedom[9].—Good faith, this same young sober-blooded boy doth not love me: nor a man cannot make him laugh[1]:—but that's no marvel, he drinks no wine. There's never any of these demure boys come to any proof[2]: for thin drink doth so over-cool their blood, and making many fish-meals, that they fall into a kind of male green-sickness: and then, when they marry, they get wenches: they are generally fools and cowards:—which some of us should be too, but for inflammation. A good sherris-sack[3] hath a two-fold opera-

the same with temper of mind: I shall, in my good nature, speak better of you than you merit. JOHNSON.

I believe it means, "I, in my condition," i. e. in my place as commanding officer, who ought to represent things merely as they are, shall speak of you better than you deserve.

So, in The Tempest, Ferdinand says:

"—I am, *in my condition*,
A prince, Miranda."

Dr. Johnson's explanation, however, seems to be countenanced by Gower's address to Pistol, in King Henry V. Act V. Sc. I.:

" — let a Welsh correction teach you a good English *condition*."

STEEVENS.

9 —your DUKEDOM.] He had no *dukedom*. See vol. xvi. p. 178. RITSON.

[1] — this same young sober-blooded boy doth not love me: nor a man cannot make him laugh:] Falstaff here speaks like a veteran in life. The young prince did not love him, and he despaired to gain his affection, for he could not make him laugh. Men only become friends by community of pleasures. He who cannot be softened into gaiety, cannot easily be melted into kindness. JOHNSON.

« «—to any PROOF:] i. e. any confirmed state of manhood. The allusion is to armour hardened till it abides a certain trial. So, in King Richard II.:

" *Add proof* unto my armour with thy prayers."

STEEVENS.

3 —sherris-sack —] This liquor is mentioned in The Captain, by Beaumont and Fletcher. STEEVENS.

The epithet *sherry* or *sherris*, when added to sack, merely Denoted the particular part of Spain from whence it came. See